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## WAR NOT PROBABLE

## Franco-German Discussion Over Morocco Quiet.

## MAY ASK AMERICAN AID

Situation Is Delicate But Nothing Serious Anticipated—Both Countries hope For Amicable Settlement and Look to This Country for Sympathy.

Washington, June 17.—Reassuring advice reached here today from official sources regarding the Moroccan negotiations at Paris which, while they indicate that war between Germany and France is improbable, they also indicate the extreme delicacy of the situation. Berlin takes a much more optimistic view of the situation than Paris. Germany claims the negotiations are proceeding with the utmost good will on both sides, and there is the probability of an early settlement of all existing differences. Paris also professes good will and a spirit of friendliness, but is unable to foresee the outcome and "What is back of Morocco and what are Germany's intentions."

In the event of the failure of the Paris negotiations the European ambassador, tonight expressed the belief, that President Roosevelt may be called upon for assistance. Both Germany and France know informally that this government does not consider the American interests, in Morocco sufficient to warrant any initiative on the part of President Roosevelt regarding the invitation of the sultan to the powers to participate in an international conference.

American acceptance of that invitation would be on the condition that the powers signatory to the Madrid convention were in favor of such a conference. Both Germany and France, however, are inclined to hope for sympathy from this country, Germany on the ground of the emperor's demand for an open door in Morocco and an appeal to American commerce and France because of the action taken by this country in the Perdicaris case, when the State Department requested the good offices of the French government in securing the release of Perdicaris, the American citizen in Tangier who was kidnapped by bandits last year.

## Ambassador and Premier Confer.

Paris, June 17.—Strained relations between France and Germany reached the culminating stage today and for a time the public mind is distracted between reports that the two countries are on the eve of war, that would set Europe ablaze, and that reassuring declarations of diplomacy still hold firm grasp on the situation.

Fortunately the situation is much relieved tonight after a long conference between Prince Von Radolin, German ambassador to France, and Premier Rouvier, which took place at the foreign office. This distinctly showed that the diplomatic course has not reached a point of rupture. Moreover it is known that the exchanges between Prince Von Radolin and the French premier which seemed on the point of breaking yesterday are again brought within normal channels. At the same time alarmists reports had thoroughly aroused public apprehension that grave eventualities are possible, if not imminent.

There is not the slightest evidence, however that France is provokingly moved or that the people seriously apprehend war and none of the exciting scenes that preceded the Franco-Prussian War are occurring. The German embassy is one of the most serene spots in the French capital and it has not been necessary to station even a police guard there.

There were indications, too, that Premier Rouvier welcomed these assurances as permitting France to consider the acceptance of a conference of the powers without any sacrifice of national self respect. The idea that France is being driven by Germany is deeply wounding to the national pride and Germany has been quick to avert this obstacle to the solution of the question. As the matter stands, Germany is freed from the proposed international conference and from its possible menacing and humiliating features, and thus presented France is disposed to consider the proposition. If accepted by France the present cloud will blow over, for England's opposition to the conference is merely to strengthen the hand of France and not because England has further political aims in Morocco.

## LUMBER EXCHANGE

Iron, steel and cement are growing competitors of the products of the forest.

The Sumpter Valley Railroad Company is working on the extension of its line from Tipton into the John Day country, where the new extension will open up a very productive country.

The new branch road of the O. R. & N. from Arlington to Condon is practically completed. The building of this new line will be at once marked with increased industrial activity. A larger crop of wheat will be harvested this year than ever before.—Timberman.

One does not quite understand why the railroads are so worried over the bill to regulate rates which is before Congress. The bill was prepared by a Congressman, that any one who is conversant with eastern politics knows, has always been subject to the beck and call of a big railroad corporation.

One of the largest manufacturers and dealers in shingles on the Coast says it would be impossible for the mills to shut down at the present time. He asserts that a shut-down would mean the entrance of the sheriff or receiver in five-sixths of the mills. It is quite probable his statement is overdrawn, but, unless something is done before long, his words will easily approach the truth.

The Inland Empire has a lumber manufacturer so profane that he injects profanity into the dictation he gives his stenographer. The young lady has grown familiar with his style of dictation and, although at first she shuddered when this style of dictation was shot at her, she now takes it without tremor. She eliminates all this from her copy and it is one of the office secrets, which, however, was given away. Here is a fine opportunity for the missionaries. John D. Rockefeller's attention is called to this field.

The rumor that the lumber associations will shortly start a school for cooking houses and lumber camps, is erroneous. It is conceded, however that there is no place in the world which offers as fine a field for good cooks as does this Coast. The pay is good and there is a marked liberality in the furnishing of food to be manipulated. Perhaps in no place, outside of France, are there so many French cooks as there are on this Coast. Quite a number of them speak Chinese as well as they do French, both having a strong Irish accent.

The Freight Claim Department of the Northern Pacific Railway has sent out a circular letter giving notice to shippers of certain changes and ratings that have been recently made. The loading of cars to the full capacity will be strictly enforced. Overall interstate business the law of the state of Washington requiring lumber and other products to be weighed within the state, will not be operative. Any understanding to the contrary, which has heretofore been in force, will be abrogated. This means that Coast weights will not be given preference to eastern points. The circular advises shippers of lumber and shingles to inform the purchaser as to the correct rate and weight, showing the total amount of freight that should be paid. This will require the agent at the receiving station to look the tariff up and make proper corrections. If this is adhered to, claims for freight charges should be much reduced.—West Coast Lumberman.

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## SAVANTS TO TRAVEL

Will Observe Total Eclipse Occuring August 30.

## THREE EXPEDITIONS IN ALL

Eminent Astronomers from All Over World Will Visit Spain, Egypt and Labrador, Lick Observatory Scientists In charge of Parties.

San Jose, Cal., June 17.—Prof. W. W. Campbell, of Lick observatory, accompanied by other scientists, will go on an expedition to observe the total eclipse of the sun, which will occur August 30. Three expeditions will be sent out by the Lick observatory, one to Spain, one to Egypt, and one to Labrador.

Professor Campbell will head the expedition to Spain, accompanied by Professor Perrine of the Lick observatory, and another assistant from Marietta, Ohio, college. The point of observation will be between Madrid and Saragossa. A complete apparatus, including cameras and spectroscopes will be taken along. It will take six weeks to get them mounted and adjusted; the work being wholly photographic.

Some of the most distinguished scientists of England, Germany, and Sweden will go to the above named points of observation. The expedition to Labrador will be under charge of Dr. H. B. Curtis, accompanied by Professor Stebbins, now of the University of Illinois. They will locate about 300 miles north of New Foundland, on the eastern coast at Hudson Bay camp station called Cartwright. They will be assisted by Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, the celebrated missionary among the natives of Labrador.

The expedition to Egypt will be under charge of Professor Huxley, of Lick observatory. He will have as an assistant Professor West, of Beirut, Syria, formerly a student of astronomy at Princeton University.

An important object of these expeditions is to try to locate the intramural planet, commonly called Vulcan, which is supposed to exist, but has never been seen.

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